

South Dakota State University

Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange

SDSU Extension Fact Sheets

SDSU Extension

1981

Look to the Label

Cooperative Extension South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact

Recommended Citation

South Dakota State University, Cooperative Extension, "Look to the Label" (1981). *SDSU Extension Fact Sheets*. 964.

https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/extension_fact/964

This Fact Sheet is brought to you for free and open access by the SDSU Extension at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in SDSU Extension Fact Sheets by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



For current policies and practices, contact SDSU Extension

Website: extension.sdstate.edu

Phone: 605-688-4792

Email: sdsu.extension@sdstate.edu

SDSU Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer in accordance with the nondiscrimination policies of South Dakota State University, the South Dakota Board of Regents and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Look to the Label



Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture

LOOK TO THE LABEL

Sure, you have the **right** to expect consumer information to appear on those clothing labels. But it's also your **responsibility** to know what information is required to be there.

Federal laws and regulations have been enacted for your benefit, to protect you—the consumer—in the purchase of clothing and fabric goods. So it's worth knowing what those rulings are:

THE TEXTILE FIBER PRODUCTS IDENTIFICATION ACT

This is designed to protect you from false advertising and from mislabeling of fiber content in textile products.

Labels must:

- identify the fiber by generic name (the name of the family of fibers with similar chemical composition or origin)
- give the percentage of each kind of fiber in the product
- tell who the manufacturer is (by name or registered number)
- state where the garment was processed and manufactured if it was imported.

FLAMMABLE FABRICS ACT

This act protects you from dangerously flammable clothing. Children's sleepwear, sizes 0-14, and yard goods intended for sleepwear must pass particularly stringent tests. And the labels on these sleepwear items must give precautionary instructions for preserving the fabric's flame-resistant qualities.

WOOL PRODUCTS LABELING ACT

This protects you from the fraudulent use of substitutes in manufactured wool products.

Labels must:

- tell who markets the product (by name or registered number)
- list by percentage any "new wool" (never before used in fabric), "Recycled wool" (fibers broken down and remanufactured from unused fabric or from a wool product which has been used by a consumer), and other fibers used in the garment.

FUR PRODUCTS LABELING ACT

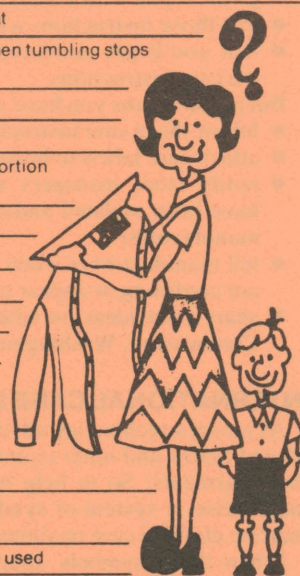
This protects you from false advertising or misbranding of fur products.

Labels must:

WHEN IT SAYS... IT MEANS...

(A Consumer's Guide to Care Labeling, developed by the American Apparel Manufacturer's Association)

MACHINE WASHABLE	Machine wash	Wash, bleach, dry and press by any customary method including commercial laundering and dry cleaning
	Home launder only	Same as above but do not use commercial laundering
	No chlorine bleach	Do not use chlorine bleach Oxygen bleaches may be used
	No bleach	Do not use any type of bleach
	Cold wash Cold rinse	Use cold water from tap or cold washing machine setting (85° F or 29° C)
	Warm wash Warm rinse	Use warm water or warm washing machine setting (90-110° F or 32-43° C)
	Hot wash	Use hot water or hot washing machine setting (140° F or 60° C)
	No spin	Remove wash load before final machine spin cycle
	Delicate cycle Gentle cycle	Use slow agitation and reduced time or wash by hand
	Durable press cycle Permanent press cycle	Use a gradually cooling or cold rinse followed by reduced spinning or use warm wash, cold rinse and a short spin cycle
	Wash separately	Wash alone or with like colors
NON-MACHINE WASHING	Hand wash	Launder only by hand with gentle squeezing action
	Hand wash separately	Hand wash alone or with like colors
	No bleach	Do not use bleach
	No chlorine bleach	Permits use of other bleaches
	Damp wipe	Surface-clean with damp cloth or sponge
HOME DRYING	Tumble dry	Dry in tumble dryer at specified setting—high, medium, low or no heat
	Tumble dry Remove promptly	Same as above, but in absence of cool-down cycle remove at once when tumbling stops
	Drip dry	Hang wet and allow to dry with hand shaping only
	Line dry	Hang damp and allow to dry
	No wring No twist	Hang dry, drip dry or dry flat only. Handle to prevent wrinkles and distortion
	Dry flat	Lay garment on flat surface
	Block to dry	Maintain original size and shape while drying
IRONING OR PRESSING	Cool iron	Set iron at lowest setting
	Warm iron	Set iron at medium setting
	Hot iron	Set iron at hot setting
	Do not iron	Do not iron or press with heat
	Steam iron	Iron or press with steam
	Iron damp	Dampen garment before ironing
MISC.	Dry-clean only	Garment should be dry-cleaned only, including self-service
	Professionally dry-clean only*	Do not use self-service drycleaning
	No dry-clean	Use recommended care instructions. No dry-cleaning materials to be used



- give the species of the animal used and its country of origin
- tell whether any paws, tails, or reused fur were included

- state if the fur was dyed, colored, or bleached
- tell who manufactured it (either by name or registered number)

PERMANENT CARE LABELING RULING

This regulation deals with care labels on products that need cleaning care for ordinary use. The textile products covered by this act are clothing, draperies, curtains, linens, piece goods, yarn, carpets and rugs, and upholstered furniture.

Any person or organization that directs or controls the manufacture or importation of these products is covered by the regulation.

According to the ruling, labels must:

- be attached so they can be easily seen or found
- stay fastened and legible during the life of the product
- state what regular care is needed
- be delivered upon purchaser's request with the sale of piece goods
- specify hand or machine wash and water temperature
- state method of drying and temperature to be used
- state if ironing is needed on a regular basis
- specify if products will be harmed by bleaches
- indicate any other special warnings such as "Do Not Dryclean" or "Dry Flat"

So What Does Care Labeling Mean to You?

It means you have the **right** to expect:

- that care instructions will be supplied in clothing or given to you with yard goods
- that those instructions will be well-defined
- that you'll get satisfactory results when you follow the care instructions

But it also means you have a **responsibility** to:

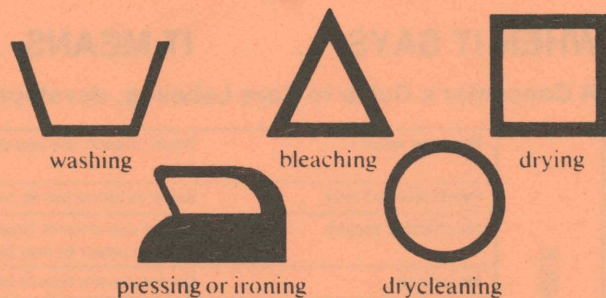
- follow those care instructions
- attach care labels to home-sewn garments
- notify store managers when your consumer rights have been violated and/or complain in writing to the manufacturer
- tell manufacturers when their care recommendations are confusing or appear to damage your garments
- share your ideas on labeling with the Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580

INTERNATIONAL CARE LABELING

As modern technology advances international trade, the United States and other countries are importing more and more garments. So to help bridge language barriers that might arise, a system of symbols has been established to indicate clothing care recommendations.

When these symbols appear on clothing sold in the United States, an English explanation must appear too, according to the Permanent Care Label Ruling.


The five basic symbols for textile care are:



Color is part of this system too:

- red = stop! Do not carry out whatever action the symbol represents
- amber = some caution is necessary
- green = no special precaution is needed

The system specifies temperatures for washing, drying, or ironing garments.

An  means you should avoid the method of care that's shown.

Variations of these symbol instructions include:



OTHER INFORMATION — NOT REQUIRED BY LAW

Manufacturers often voluntarily supply information you can use to make wise clothing buys. So study those garment tags. Look for seals or statements that might tell about the garment's:

- maximum shrinkage (Has a brand-name finish been applied, or, in the case of cotton or linen, has the product been sanforized?)
- colorfastness
- special finishes (Tags may indicate treatments that have been applied which repel water, prevent wrinkles or stains, increase wear or change the appearance of the garment.)
- guarantees or warranties

For more information contact Linda Manikowske, Extension clothing and textiles specialist. Prepared by Rae Reilly and Jacquelyn Yep and reprinted with permission of Iowa Cooperative Extension Service. Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with USDA, Hollis D. Hall, Director of CES, SDSU, Brookings, Education programs and materials offered without regard to age, race, color, religion, sex, handicap, or national origin. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

File: 13.1—5,000 printed at estimated 4 cents each—10-81mb—261.

FS 800

Look to the Label



Cooperative Extension Service
South Dakota State University
U.S. Department of Agriculture